

Minutes of the Henry's Fork Distribution System Annual Meeting March 3, 2011

The meeting convened at approximately 4:10 p.m. at the Schoolhouse in McKinnon, Wyoming.

Lee Sim called the meeting to order. Ben Anderson read the minutes of the 2010 annual meeting. Jon Wilde motioned to approve the minutes. Bob Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Water Commissioner Todd Covolo reported his regulation and water distribution activities during the 2010 irrigation season. Commissioner Covolo reported the following:

- 1) Diversions on Middle and East Beaver were washed out during high flows.
- 2) In 2010, Regulation during the lowest flows were as follows:
 - a) Beaver Creek; regulated to 1908 and then 1889 Priority
 - b) Burnt Fork; regulated to October 15, 1882 Priority.
 - c) Henrys Fork; didn't enter into regulation in 2010.
- 3) Interstate Canal Users made repairs on their Headgates at their Diversion.
- 4) Thompson Creek Diversion into Hoop Lake was also repaired.
- 5) Birch Creek was able to follow their rights without regulation.
- 6) Visited Middle Beaver and East Beaver diversions with Utah State Engineer's Office representatives. Orders were issued on the Gregory Basin Canal. The problem is Hoop Lake storage water sometimes doesn't make it down to the Burnt Fork water users. Orders were established to replace the problem Headgates.
- 7) The natural Control at the Burnt Fork split must only be changed or managed by the Water Commissioner.
- 8) It was decided that Baldy Spring Ditch Water Users would provide their own locking Headgates and measuring devices. Once all these facilities are in place, the commissioner could serve as the Water Master on this ditch system, provided his time working on this ditch is tracked and billed directly to these water users for his services. Such billing would be separate from the already-established Henrys Fork Tributaries Distribution System. Assessments would be based on the quantity of water delivered to each water user on the ditch. The WY SE office would oversee and manage the ditch operation and the assessments, acting as the Baldy Spring Ditch Company, which doesn't officially exist.
- 9) The commissioner outlined the process of how regulation is initiated, which begins with a written request from a WY water user, upon which the commissioner has 72 hours to investigate and either approve or disapprove regulation based on his findings.
- 10) Emphasized that one contact person per diversion is important during regulation.

Lee Sim requested a motion to approve the commissioner's report. Wade Stephens motioned to approve. Bill Gamble seconded the motion. Motion carried.

John Yarbrough, Hydrologist with the WY SE Office, reported the Financial Report showing the expenses during the 2010 year. Mr. Yarbrough noted the commissioner attended some training in March and also received some benefit pay. The total expenses were \$14,587.77, with Utah's 30% share being \$4,376.33.

Mr. Yarbrough also provided a report of the flow measurements obtained during the 2009 season in Utah, as more time is needed to finish reporting the 2010 data.

Mr. Yarbrough reported that some telemetry data was lost due to high flows during Spring Runoff. Most all of the stations are now back in operation. The telemetry data is accessible only by commissioner and the WY SE Office. It will eventually be available to the water users, as planned, but this feature is not yet programmed into the system.

Snowpack in the Green River Drainage, NRCS, was 122% as of 3/3/2011. Other local measurements were reported by John Yarbrough: Hickerson 149%, Hole in Rock 144%.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Attendees:

State Water Officials in attendance included:

Lee Sim, UT Division of Water Rights

Bob Leake, UT Division of Water Rights

Ben Anderson, UT Division of Water Rights

Andrew Dutson, UT Division of Water Rights

John Yarbrough, WY State Engineer's Office

Todd Covolo, Henry's Fork Tributaries Water Commissioner

See attendance roster for list of water users in attendance